## Message Text

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**ACTION EUR-12** 

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R 031406Z JAN 75 FM AMEMBASSY BONN TO USDOC WASHDC INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7063

UNCLAS BONN 00076

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: BFOL, GW

SUBJECT: ADS REQUEST - WHITE TRUCK INTERNATIONAL,

CLEVELAND, OHIO

- 1. UNFORTUNATELY THE EMBASSY COULD NOT LOCATE ANY FIRMS INTERESTED IN SUBJECT PROPOSAL. CONTACTS STATED THAT THE DEPRESSED CONDITION OF THE CONSTRUCTION AND AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRIES HAS NECESSITATED SEVERE CURTAILMENTS IN INVESTMENT IN MAJOR CAPITAL GOODS, SUCH AS HEAVY CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY, TRUCKS, ETC. ONE OF THE LOCAL COMPANIES CONTACTED CONDUCTED A SHORT MARKET SURVEY WHICH SHOWED THAT THERE ARE AT LEAST FOUR GERMAN FIRMS MANUFACTURING A SIMILAR RANGE OF TRUCKS AND TRACTORS AND THAT THERE IS SUBSTANTIALLY NO MARKET FOR SUBJECT PRODUCTS.
- 2. MOREOVER, WE WERE INFORMED THAT THE TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS REQUIRED BY GERMAN CAR LICENSING REGULATIONS, I.E. STRASSENVERKEHRSZULASSUNGSORDNUNG, ARE SELDOM COMMENSURATE WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF US ROAD TRANSPORT VEHICLES. FURTHERMORE GERMAN FIRMS ARE SELDOM PREPARED TO BEAR THE EXPENSE FOR A PROTOTYPE ACCEPTANCE BECAUSE EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT THE COST OF THE REQUIRED TECHNICAL ALTERATIONS IS PROHIBITIVE.
- 3. THE GERMAN ROAD TRAFFIC REGISTRATION OFFICE INFORMS US THAT USUALLY ONLY PASSENGER CARS ARE CONVERTED TO GERMAN STANDARDS, AND ITS STATISTICS SHOW THAT HARDLY ANY UNCLASSIFIED

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ROAD TRANSPORT VEHICLES OF US ORIGIN ARE OPERATED ON

GERMAN ROADS. IT WAS HOWEVER INDICATED THAT US TRUCKS MIGHT BE OPERATED OFF THE ROAD WHERE THEY WOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO THE GERMAN ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATIONS.

4. THERE IS A MACK TRUCK AGENT HERE ACTING ONLY AS A SUPPLIER OF SPARE PARTS FOR MACK TRUCKS TRANSITING GERMANY FROM OTHER COUNTRIES, AND FOR U.S. MILITARY VEHICLES. THIS AGENT INFORMED US, FOR INSTANCE, THAT GERMAN SPECIFICATIONS ARE SO RIGID THAT AMERICAN AXLE WIDTHS WOULD HAVE TO BE ALTERED TO MEET GERMAN STANDARDS. THIS WOULD APPLY EQUALLY TO TRUCKS BUILT IN COUNTRIES INSIDE THE COMMON MARKET.

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Subject: ADS REQUEST - WHITE TRUCK INTERNATIONAL, CLEVELAND, OHIO TAGS: BFOL, GE

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